

Jewish People's Representatives Meet in Moscow

ON May 24 last there took place in Moscow a conference of representatives of the Jewish people of the Soviet Union. Among those attending were famous Jewish writers, scientists, actors and others, both men and women.

The proceedings were opened by the famous actor and dramatic teacher, Professor Solomon Michoels, who holds the title of People's Artist of the U.S.S.R. He addressed his words to "Brother Jews of the whole world," and said : "We are separated by the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, but united by the blood of our sisters and brothers who have fallen victims to the Fascist monsters."

Professor Michoels then proceeded : "I am addressing you as a citizen of a great free country, as the son of the great Soviet people, as a Soviet citizen. I am a representative of that section of the Jewish people which, with a freedom and conviction to be found nowhere else in the world, can pronounce that wonderful word—Motherland !"

Other speakers at the meeting included the Jewish poet and playwright, Aron Kushnirov, a Red Army man who has been decorated for gallantry in action. "The Jewish people," he said, "has given many brave fighters and heroes to our Soviet motherland in this great patriotic war. Jewish brothers in all countries of the world, I, a Jewish Soviet poet and Red Army man, address you with warm greetings and a call to battle !"

Pinkhos Sassai, famous Jewish sculptor and Stalin prize laureate, called on Jewish artists in Britain, the United States, and throughout the world to give all their strength in the struggle against Fascism.

Then came the Jewish writer, David Bergelson, who referred to the thousands who had been tortured to death in the areas which Hitler's army had invaded. He continued : "Across the seas separating us we say to you, our brothers : 'Accursed be he in our midst who still hopes for mercy from the Fascist !' The annihilation of Hitlerism is the only pledge of the salvation of the peoples of the enslaved countries, and together with them the Jewish people."

Others who spoke were the poet and Stalin prizewinner, Samuel Marshak, and Shakhno Epstein, editor of the Jewish newspaper, *Einigkeit*. They were followed by the Jewish army surgeon, Grigory Tsifrinovich, who called on Jewish doctors in freedom-loving countries to assist in the fight against the enemy. Alexander Frumkin, well-known Soviet scientist, Director of

the Institute of Colloids and Electrical Chemistry, spoke in English, as follows : " In our Soviet Academy we see Russians, Ukrainians, Jews, Georgians, Armenians, Uzbeks, and Kasakhs working side by side. In Tsarist Russia science was forbidden ground for Jews. The Soviet power flung open the doors of scientific institutes and universities."

Other speakers were a Jewish Red Army nurse, Faina Bukler, who appealed to Jewish women in Britain, America, and throughout the world, David Shchupak, chairman of a Jewish collective farm, and Colonel Mikhlin, who read an appeal to Jews throughout the world, which the meeting adopted. Passages from this appeal are quoted below.

REPLY TO SOVIET JEWRY

There was a moving scene at the meeting when Mr. Zalman Rubashov replied to the call to world Jewry at the Jewish rally in Moscow a few days ago in which special reference was made to the Jews in Palestine. Mr. Rubashov's speech was marked by applause and the fervent singing of the " Internationale " and the " Hatikvah."

In the course of his address, Mr. Rubashov said :— " You appealed to us saying that ' the waters are come in unto my soul ' (Bau Mayim Ad Nefesh) to which we respond prayerfully and hopefully : " The soul has not, and will not, come unto the waters.' We are ancient people, experienced in suffering, and we cannot be destroyed. Our hearts have opened to your appeal, and all of the House of Israel, from Jerusalem to New York and Cape Town, heard your cry."

*Extract from Palcor News Agency : Palestine Correspondence Service.
From Histraduth Council Meeting, held in Jerusalem, May 22.*

Appeal to Jews Throughout the World

" Nine months ago we appealed to you to join in the fight against the enemy of all mankind, the enemy of all freedom-loving peoples, the enemy of the Jewish people—German Fascism. Since then the Hitlerites have massacred thousands of our people. To the Hitlerites all peoples except the Germans are of an inferior race."

" Nine months ago we called on you to join a united struggle against a base and cruel enemy. Then, Hitler's armies were advancing. Together with the sons of the other Soviet peoples, the Jews to a man rose to defend our great country. . . . Side by side with all the Soviet people they fought for the great Land of Soviets."

"It is with pride we Soviet Jews say to Jews throughout the world : here free man has shown his superiority over the soulless Fascist murderers. Hitler's army has been dealt an irreparable blow. But it is still strong. It still holds ten European countries in subjection. It still occupies large sections of the Soviet Union. It is still making attempts to break through and consign more districts to the flames. We are on the eve of decisive battles, and we representatives of the Jewish people, assembled at this meeting in free assembly, address our call to Jews throughout the world—'To Arms !'"

"Brother Jews of Great Britain and America ! In this war waiting leads nowhere. From Johannesburg to Montreal, from Alexandria to San Francisco, Jews everywhere—join in the struggle ! We Jews of the Soviet Union have shown an example. . . . Not an hour's, not a minute's delay. If all freedom-loving nations follow the example of the Soviet people Fascism will soon be routed."

"Brother Jews of Great Britain and the United States ! Together with the other peoples of your countries deal a crushing blow at Fascism. The Red Army is showing an example to mankind."

"Jewish workers of the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Palestine, South Africa, and Australia ! More aeroplanes are needed to crush the German murderers. More tanks and planes are needed to liberate the nations overrun by the Hitlerites."

"Join the armies of the anti-Hitler coalition. Remember that your place today is in the vanguard of the fighters against German Fascism."

"At a time when the Jews of Paris and Rome, of Amsterdam and Salonika, Warsaw and Riga, Lvov and Kiev, Minsk and Odessa are being hounded, exterminated and tortured to death by the foul Hitlerites, we, citizens of the great Soviet people, assembled in the capital of our sacred native land, solemnly say to you : Fight to the last drop of blood ! The hour of victory is nigh ! Under the banner of freedom, against Hitler ! To arms !"

A Message to Stalin

The Jewish People's Representatives' Meeting in Moscow also addressed a message of greeting to Stalin, from which we reproduce the following passages.

"We who have gathered at the second meeting of representatives of the Jewish people in this time of grave trial for all peoples address our first word of greeting and love to you, dear Joseph Vissarionovich.

"During many centuries of history, the Jewish people have experienced much grief and suffering, much persecution and

humiliation, but all the horrors of the past are eclipsed by the black deeds of the ferocious Fascist beast, the crimes of the Hitlerite hangmen and murderers. However, while the pogrom-mongers of various epochs found our people helpless, and perpetrated with impunity bloody massacres of our forefathers, now, in the course of our great patriotic war, the enemy has found us in the ranks of the Red Army, well-armed and ready to offer him a rebuff. The finest sons of the Jewish people, soldiers of the valiant Red Army, are full of courage and valour, and daily replenish the galaxy of heroes of the patriotic war."

"In ancient times the bloodthirsty predecessors of Hitler and Mussolini deprived us of our native land. After endless persecution and painful wanderings, we have once again acquired our native land. A quarter of a century of life under the Soviet Government has not only healed the wounds of many ages but inspired our people with fresh forces, youth, and creative power. The Soviet country is our native land. We take pride in our right to fight for her freedom, and for the inviolability of her frontiers and the peace and happiness of her peoples. A great honour has fallen to our lot, the honour of defending her to our last breath against enemies who in their insolence wished to convert her peoples into slaves, the great honour of fighting against the lawlessness and arbitrary power of pogrom-mongers and murderers.

"For the first time in the last 2,000 years a wide road of courage and achievement has opened before the sons of our people, and our brothers and sons have taken to this road. The Jews of all countries view with happiness their Soviet brothers who have this right and honour of building their life on an equal footing with all peoples of our native land. Oppression and misery, persecution and pogroms, have become a sad story of the past. And he who tries to return to this terrible past and convert trees into gallows, orchards into graveyards, and our native land into a prison for the peoples, will be wiped off the face of the earth."

"We vow to do everything, not sparing our lives, to execute your Order of the Day of May First, together with the great Russian people and all peoples of the U.S.S.R. to rout the German Fascist troops in 1942 and clear our native Soviet soil of the Fascist invaders. We assure you, dear Comrade Stalin, that we shall do everything for the annihilation of the hateful foe of humanity, for the triumph of truth and justice, for victory. Death to the Hitlerite scoundrels!"

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